



AFTER SQUID GAME, REAL-LIFE ILISH GAME GRIPS NATION

BROODING CORRESPONDENT

For weeks, the Squid Game has been the most watched show on Netflix in the country, and the wildly popular South Korean series has birthed an actual game called Ilish Game in the riverine country.

This correspondent went deep under cover in lungi and sendu and unearthed the phenomenon that is known as the Ilish Game, and it is going viral in the chars, haors and coasts across the country.

The number of fishermen in rural areas being detained for catching brood hilsa during a ban on the activity caught the attention of the well-to-dos and ne'er-do-wells of the capital, so much so that they actually paused the Squid Game and called each other up.

Apart from giggling uncontrollably after cracking the timeless joke "jele ra jail e jay", they found a much more lasting form of entertainment.

"For this we joined hands with local administration all over the country... I mean we didn't actually join hands, eww, but let's just say we guided them," said Osama Bin Wassama, a very rich man of the capital's Gulmari area and one of the founders of Ilish Game.

"You see, during the ban on catching mother ilish [he pronounced it Ai-Leesh], local administration is supposed to provide food support to fishermen who depend on catching ilish for their livelihood. We just instructed the local administration to withhold the support, and the game started."

A local administration official in

Moonpara, who preferred anonymity for obvious reasons, said, "Well, the rich organisers didn't really have to tell us to withhold the support, because we have been doing that for ages - a man's gotta eat, you know. But they didn't know we were always doing this, because they don't read the papers."

HOW THE ILISH GAME WORKS

This correspondent's deep undercover reporting revealed that the fishermen were given a card by local administration that they thought would let them catch hilsa during the ban. But they were told that they must not get caught.

"But we had been doing that for ages anyway," said a fisherman whose name this

correspondent forgot.

Every day, a patrol of law enforcement agents trawled through the rivers to catch anyone illegally catching fish. Those who got caught were eliminated, but unlike the Squid Game, the sole earners of their families were not killed -- just sent to jail.

Those who were not caught were allowed to sell their hilsa catch at city markets at exorbitant prices to be bought mostly by the rich financiers, who enjoyed a breakfast of panta ilish, as per the tradition of rural Chapasthan folk.

"This helps the desperately poor of the country improve their station in life," Osama Bin Wassama said. "The eventual winner, the last jele not in jail [snickers], will get to join the local administration for the next edition of the Ilish Game."



Whistleblower exposes how development sector develops itself

STAR EXPOSE

A new autobiography penned by a former development sector expert, Mr Penh Namh, has created immense controversy in the sector.

Members of NGOs, government authorities and practitioner firms have condemned in the strongest language the contents of the book and said it is completely false and is aimed at destabilising what is otherwise a thriving sector.

This correspondent got in touch with Mr Penh Namh about some of the more controversial topics he addressed in his book.

"Each year, my office would have a big convention where ministers, dignitaries, and the who's who of the development sector would gather. This convention was to raise awareness against world hunger and guess what the biggest attraction was? The buffet lunch.

"The convention was ALWAYS held at a glitzy hotel, always a five-star and tonnes of food would be passed around while we talked about important things like addressing the malnutrition problem in refugee camps," says Penh Namh.

"Oh, and speaking of refugee camps. We

would work there all day, helping the poor, malnourished babies with our fortified food products and get out at 5:00pm to sip coffee in another glitzy cafe just outside the camp. You must have heard of it, Southstart Coffee Roasters, sister concern of a famous chain in the capital."

The former development sector expert, who became even richer after the publication of this autobiography, also lamented the slow nature of development work -- most of the work was bogged down in long meetings, training and capacity building workshops, seminars, conferences and views-exchange programmes.

"The bigger a development org, the more funding it got and despite everything we did, somehow the poor remained poor, and we would be left with a hefty amount of funding at the end of the year which we were desperate to spend to ensure we got the same amount of funding the next year. So, what would we do? We arranged more meetings, more seminars and more training for trainers. You get the drift.

"We would also use that money to collect stories of poor people we have helped with our work. This meant hiring photographers and writers and they would capture a previously desolate woman who is now all smiles because we helped her make a cucumber patch."

Life after Messi: Barcelona to shift focus from football to mining

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

Fans of FC Barcelona have been left scratching their heads as the much-loved Spanish football club has announced that they will transition to becoming a mine-exploring organisation.

Experts, of course mostly from Bangladesh, predict that the new Barcelona project could surpass AC Milan's one.

The precise moment when this epoch-making era began is still unknown. Neither the club nor its fans could identify whether it was Lionel Messi's exit or Ronald Koeman's entrance that started the club on its path to becoming a world-famous mining organisation.

According to some historians and their history books, Barcelona used to play beautiful football once. But over time the club changed its vision from winning to digging for gold, diamond, platinum, whatever.

Speaking with Satireday in an Imo video call, which was interrupted repeatedly as the network at his end was poor due to him being 150 feet below ground, Barcelona coach Koeman said, "I am the coach and I know better than all of you. My ancestor was a student of Socrates and his wisdom has been passed down in my blood. We have a plan. We are searching for some diamond or gold mines so that we can repay Barcelona's serious debts. That's why we are going down match after match."

Messi, meanwhile, was found wandering the streets of Paris, humming something that resembled Metallica's "Nothing else matters".

He scratched his head upon being asked about what was going on at Barcelona.

"Do you think I can carry their mining load? Do you know the bile that would come out when they dig underground? They don't even have equipment needed for the work. For the past two seasons they tried to train me to do all work with my hand. I'm a footballer..."



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